

What is claimed is:

1. A device for covering a gimbaled butt end of a fishing rod, comprising:

a one-piece integrally formed body comprising:

a base portion having a body-engaging surface structured and disposed for comfortable engagement against the body of a user of the fishing rod;

a neck portion extending from said base portion and having an open end communicating with a hollow receptacle sized and configured for receipt of the butt end therein, said receptacle extending axially through said neck portion and surrounded by an inner wall surface, said inner wall surface extending from said open end to a bottom of said receptacle within said base portion, and said bottom of said receptacle being integrally formed with said base portion to provide a shoulder for stopping continued passage of the butt end through said receptacle;

said inner wall surface tapering from said open end to said bottom so that a diameter of said receptacle at said open end is greater than a diameter of said receptacle at said bottom, and said inner wall surface including at least two elongate ribs extending longitudinally from within said base portion and through said neck portion, said ribs being structured and disposed for frictional

engagement with the butt end of the fishing rod to releasably hold the body on the butt end of the fishing rod; and

said body-engaging surface on said base portion being larger than said open end of said neck portion.

2. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein said base portion includes a transverse cross-sectional dimension which is greater than two times the diameter of said hollow receptacle at said open end.

3. The device as recited in claim 2 wherein an outer periphery of said base portion surrounding said body-engaging surface is larger than an outer periphery of said neck portion.

4. The device as recited in claim 3 wherein said body is formed of a firm rubber composition.

5. The device as recited in claim 3 wherein said base portion includes at least one air passage formed therethrough and in airflow communication with said hollow receptacle to promote forced removal of the butt end of the fishing rod from frictional engagement within the hollow receptacle.

6. The device as recited in claim 1 wherein said body is formed of a firm yet resilient rubber composition.

7. The device as recited in claim 5 wherein said body is formed of a firm yet resilient rubber composition.

8. A device for covering a gimbaled butt end of a fishing rod, comprising:

a one-piece body integrally formed from a single composition material and comprising:

a base portion having a body-engaging surface structured and disposed for comfortable engagement against the body of a user of the fishing rod, and said base portion including a maximum transverse cross-sectional dimension;

a neck portion integral with said base portion and extending from said base portion, said neck portion including an open end communicating with a hollow receptacle sized and configured for receipt of the butt end therein, said receptacle extending axially through said neck portion and surrounded by an inner wall surface, said inner wall surface extending from said open end to a bottom of said receptacle, within said base portion, and said receptacle being integrally formed with said base portion to provide a shoulder for stopping continued passage of the butt end through said receptacle;

said inner wall surface including at least two elongate ribs extending longitudinally from within said base portion and through said neck portion, said ribs being structured and disposed for frictional engagement with the butt end of the fishing rod to releasably hold the body on the butt end of the fishing rod; and

said maximum transverse cross-sectional dimension of said base portion being at least two times greater than said diameter of said receptacle at said open end.

9. The device as recited in claim 8 wherein said base portion includes a transverse cross-sectional dimension which is greater than two times the diameter of said hollow receptacle at said open end.

10. The device as recited in claim 9 wherein an outer periphery of said base portion surrounding said body-engaging surface is larger than an outer periphery of said neck portion.

11. The device as recited in claim 10 wherein said body is formed of a firm rubber composition.

12. The device as recited in claim 11 wherein said base portion includes at least one air passage formed therethrough and in airflow communication with said hollow receptacle to promote forced removal of the butt end of the fishing rod from frictional engagement within the hollow receptacle.

13. The device as recited in claim 8 wherein said body is formed of a firm yet resilient rubber composition.

14. The device as recited in claim 12 wherein said body is formed of a firm yet resilient rubber composition.